

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2503

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2611

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, SU

SUBJECT: SECVISIT 31ST UNGA: SUDAN

REF: A. STATE 180074, B. KHARTOUM 2605

### SUMMARY

EMBASSY RECOMMENDS SECRETARY MEET WITH SUDAN FONMIN MAKKAWI AT UNGA IN NEW YORK. THERE GROWING RECOGNITION THAT SUDAN WILL PLAY INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ARAB/AFRICAN AFFAIRS AS IT BEGINS ACHIEVE ITS TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OVER NEXT DECADE. IN PAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN US-SUDAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S VISIT TO US IN JUNE. MEETING WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SECRETARY TO EXPLAIN PERSONALLY US DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN AFRICA AND TO SEEK SUDANESE COOPERATION AND MODERATION IN UN ON SEVERAL CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. SUDANESE WOULD CONSIDER MEETING LOGICAL AND TIMELY FOLLOW-ON TO NIMEIRI'S OWN MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER SENIOR USG OFFICIALS. MAKKAWI COULD BE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY SALES TO SUDAN. END SUMMARY

1. AS INDICATED REFTTEL B, EMBASSY BELIEVES MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND SUDAN FONMIN MAKKAWI IN NEW YORK

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DURING UNGA WOULD BE TIMELY AND BENEFICIAL. SUCH MEETING

WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SECRETARY TO BRIEF MAKKAWI PERSONALLY ON RECENT US DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN AFRICA. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM, CHARGE GAINED IMPRESSION THAT MAKKAWI DID NOT FULLY APPRECIATE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG IN GENERAL AND SECRETARY IN PARTICULAR PURSUING EFFORTS TO RESOLVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND CONTINENT-WIDE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WE CAN FEEL CONFIDENT THAT AFTER DISCUSSION THESE ISSUES WITH SECRETARY HE WOULD HAVE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF US POLICIES AND, IN TURN, COULD PROVIDE MODERATE AND HELPFUL SUPPORT FOR US IN HIS DEALINGS WITH OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS.

2. SIMILARLY, FOLLOWING PERSONAL MEETING WITH SECRETARY, WE THINK THERE MAY BE GREATER LIKELIHOOD THAT SUDAN COULD BE HELPFUL ON SEVERAL CONTENTIOUS ISSUES LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED AT UNGA. AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MAKKAWI AVOIDED ANY MENTION OF PUERTO RICO OR PANAMA IN HIS SPEECH. HIS REMARKS ON KOREA, THOUGH NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY TO US, WERE NEVERTHELESS MODERATE IN CONTEXT NON-ALIGNED ATTITUDES IN GENERAL. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD CONTINUE URGE MODERATION BY GOS ON THESE ISSUES AS WELL AS ON MIDDLE-EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES RESPECTIVELY WITHIN ARAB AND AFRICAN GROUPS AT UN. GIVEN CURRENT GOS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH US, IT MAY BE TIME IS RIPE TO ENCOURAGE MOVEMENT BY GOS TOWARD US IN UNGA. THIS WOULD BE DONE, NOT SO MUCH OPENLY, BUT BY GOS ACTING AS MODERATING FORCE BEHIND SCENES. BELIEVE MAKKAWI MEETING WITH SECRETARY WOULD HELP IN THIS EFFORT.

3. MAKKAWI ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY. IT WOULD ENHANCE HIS PRESTIGE AS WELL AS THAT OF GOS IN GENERAL. FROM GOS POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL AND TIMELY FOLLOW-ON TO MEETINGS HELD BY PRESIDENT NIMEIRI AND OTHER SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON LAST JUNE. MAKKAWI WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO DISCUSS MANY OF THEMES WHICH SECRETARY HIMSELF MENTIONED IN HIS AUG 31 SPEECH IN PHILADELPHIA, AS WELL AS GENERAL MIDDLE-EAST/ARAB ISSUES AND SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA WHERE HE CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE ARMS RACE AND CLASHES

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4. HE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE COULD BE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR SUDAN INCLUDING PERHAPS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE. IT IS ALSO LIKELY HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS MILITARY SALES.

5. MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND MAKKAWI SHOULD BE SEEN

IN CONTEXT RAPIDLY IMPROVING US-SUDAN BILATERAL RELATIONS  
AT TIME WHEN US IS PARTICULARLY CONSCIOUS OF IMPORTANCE OF  
ITS RELATIONS WITH BOTH ARAB AND AFRICAN WORLDS. SUDAN,  
WHICH HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA AND  
WHICH PROVIDES LINK BETWEEN THESE IMPORTANT ARAB COUNTRIES  
AND STRATEGIC HORN OF AFRICA REGION, HAS COME TO LOOK AT  
US (BOTH USG AND PRIVATE US INTERESTS) TO MAKE MAJOR INPUT  
INTO ITS AMBITIOUS DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. FROM US POINT OF  
VIEW, SUDAN IS COUNTRY WHICH IN NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS CAN  
BE EXPECTED DEVELOP INTO IMPORTANT FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS  
(POSSIBLY INCLUDING OIL) SUPPLIER. PRESENTLY IT IS ONE OF  
POOREST COUNTRIES, BUT ITS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND SIZE  
SUGGEST THAT IT LIKELY BECOME INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT  
OVER NEXT DECADE.  
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